



Erasmus+

Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices sub-programme

INTERIM REPORT 1 form

Programme	Erasmus+
Sub-Programme	Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices
Action	Capacity Building in higher education
Sub-Action	Joint Projects
Call for Proposal	EAC-A04-2014
Project number	561775-EPP-1-2015-1-DE-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP
Agreement/decision number	20153740
Project Title	Trans-Regional Environmental Awareness for Sustainable Usage of Water Resources (TREASURE-WATER)
Language used to complete the form	English

Contractual Data

Dates and Beneficiaries

Dates

Project Start: 15/10/2015	Project End: 14/10/2018
Activities Start:	Activities End:
Project Duration(months): 36	

Beneficiary Data

Role	PIC	Name	Country
Co-Beneficiary / Partner	992935942	L.N. GUMILYOV EURASIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY	Kazakhstan
Co-Beneficiary / Partner	934513812	SARSEN AMANZHOLV EAST KAZAKHSTAN	Kazakhstan
Co-Beneficiary / Partner	999992110	STICHTING KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT	Netherlands
Co-Beneficiary / Partner	933573882	LLC TYUMEN VODOKANAL	Russian Federation
Co-Beneficiary / Partner	995024061	INSTITUTE FOR WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS, SIBERIAN BRANCH OF THE RUSSIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES	Russian Federation
Co-Beneficiary / Partner	987536049	YUGRA STATE UNIVERSITY	Russian Federation
Co-Beneficiary / Partner	996835536	STATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION OF HIGHER PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION TOMSK STATE UNIVERSITY	Russian Federation
Co-Beneficiary / Partner	934538353	FEDERAL STATE FUNDED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION OF HIGHER PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION ALTAI STATE UNIVERSITY	Russian Federation
Co-Beneficiary / Partner	947970040	FEDERAL STATE BUDGETARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION OF HIGHER PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION TYUMEN STATE UNIVERSITY	Russian Federation
Coordinating Organization / Beneficiary	999841760	ALBERT-LUDWIGS-UNIVERSITAET FREIBURG	Germany
Management Contact Person	999841760	ALBERT-LUDWIGS-UNIVERSITAET FREIBURG	Germany
Co-Beneficiary / Partner	933934819	ZWECKVERBAND BODENSEE-WASSERVERSORGUNG	Germany
Co-Beneficiary / Partner	999852527	UNIVERSITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON	United Kingdom
Co-Beneficiary / Partner	999643007	ETHNIKO KAI KAPODISTRIAKO PANEPISTIMIO ATHINON	Greece
Co-Beneficiary / Partner	999895692	ARISTOTELIO PANEPISTIMIO THESSALONIKIS	Greece

Legal Representative

Organisation Legal Address

Name:	ALBERT-LUDWIGS-UNIVERSITAET FREIBURG		
Street:	FAHNENBERGPLATZ		
Post Code:	79085	City:	FREIBURG
Country:	Germany		

Department

Name:			
Street:	FAHNENBERGPLATZ		
Post Code:	79085	City:	FREIBURG
Country:	Germany		
Local Address:			
Internet site:	www.uni-freiburg.de		

Contact

Title:	Prof. Dr.	Function:	Rector
Name	Hans-Jochen	Last Name:	Schiewer
Phone Number 1:	004976120367568	Phone Number 2:	
Fax Number:		Mobile Number:	
Email:	info@uni-freiburg.de		

Contact Person

Organisation Legal Address

Name:	ALBERT-LUDWIGS-UNIVERSITAET FREIBURG		
Street:	FAHNENBERGPLATZ		
Post Code:	79085	City:	FREIBURG
Country:	Germany		

Department

Name:	
-------	--

Street: Schaenzlestr. 1
Post Code: D-79104 City: Freiburg
Country: Germany
Local Address:
Internet site: www.uni-freiburg.de

Contact

Title: Mr.	Function: Professor
Name: Ralf	Last Name: Reski
Phone Number 1: +49 761 203 6969	Phone Number 2: +49 171 545 7001
Fax Number: +49 761 203 6967	Mobile Number:
Email: Ralf.Reski@biologie.uni-freiburg.de	

Project Summary and Horizontal Issues

Project Description

English - 1	<p>The project, aiming at strengthening cooperation between Russia and Kazakhstan, addresses one of their common regional priorities – ‘Development of partnerships with enterprises’ which is on the lists of national priorities for both countries. The project is also consolidated by the shared environmental theme - a cross-cutting topic in the national and regional priorities for RU and KZ. The consortium includes 11 academic and 3 non-academic partners (2 enterprises and a research institute). It integrates both, experienced and new partners in EU projects.</p> <p>The wider objective is to contribute to empower universities in RU and KZ by enhancing synergy between higher education and enterprises in the field of Trans-Boundary Water Resources Management (TWRM).</p> <p>To achieve this goal the following specific objectives are envisaged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">To develop a trans-institutional model for interaction between HEIs and enterprises in the field of TWRM;To enhance teaching capacities of the PC HEIs;To empower enterprises in the Water Sector in the PCs by developing support tools and staff training;To raise awareness of water problems;To create potential for internationalization. <p>As a result of the project the following outcomes/outputs will be achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- a strategy for building ‘Industry–Academia Learning Partnerships’ and a methodology for TWRM developed;- an ‘Industry-Academia Teaching Task Force’ created and trained, the teaching environment at PC universities modernized;- new curricula and ECTS based courses in TWRM designed in cooperation with the industry ;- an e-learning platform designed and installed;- new modules in TWRM for industry in operation on a LLL basis and integrated into the curricula at PC universities,- supported by a digital library of course materials;- a Quality Plan for all project activities fulfilled;- wide dissemination achieved, including creating a water problems awareness in the society at large;- efficient management of the project implemented.
-------------	--

Horizontal Issues

Previous recommendations/follow-up

The feedback and advice from the early project monitoring at ENU and TSU by the NEOs (Ms. Sh. Tasbulatova and Ms. A. Muravyova) and EACEA representatives (Ms. P. Hernesniemi) were most useful and gave a "good kick" to the project. All participants were familiarised with their comments and appropriate measures were taken to improve the situation, in particular:

- a multilateral Partnership Agreement with detailed budgetary entitlements per each partner was fully signed
- the management structure, the duties and responsibilities were clarified and made public on the project website: <http://treasure-water.eu/>
- the role distribution of partner institutions (PIs) by WPs was reviewed at the coordination meetings at ALU in Oct. 2016, adjusted and rebalanced, to ensure a stronger involvement of the PC partners (available on the PWS).
- a Country Coordinator for KZ (Dr. R. Beisenova) was nominated, her duties and responsibilities defined
- the plan for quality control was re-considered and published on the PWS
- dissemination and sustainability/exploitation strategy for the expected project results was discussed and made available
- the internal project communication and decision-making have been improved and documented
- the trans-institutional working groups (TWGs) reviewed and the tasks for each more clearly set up; representatives of external stakeholders included into working groups (information available on the e-platform: <http://public.edu.asu.ru/course/view.php?id=185>); the TWG staff have taken active participation in the preparation of the report
- the grant distribution concerning management costs has been justified (Section 3 (1) and (2) of this report)
- the roles of the EU partners as advisers on the design of the curricula and methodology of developing curriculum in line with European standards have been further developed; experts from AUTH, ALU and UA took part in the workshop at ASU (Feb. 2017), supervising the work of TWGs; under their guidance the key concept of methodology (e.g. learning outcomes (LO), professional competences were further clarified and following the discussions a TWRM specific qualifications framework was drafted; the joint questionnaire was also adjusted incorporating these concepts; experts from RUN, UA and ALU will take part in the workshop at AUTH (April 2017) and supervise the curriculum development; amendments and QA activities for the designed courses are planned for the workshops at ALU (Nov. 2017), RUN (April 2018) and UA (May 2018).

Transversal issues

Gender balance is an important issue for the selection of staff in the project activities. Despite the obvious prevalence of female staff at all PC partner universities, in the selection for mobilities a balance between men and women will be kept in most cases. Nevertheless, about 60% of participants are expected to be female. Sustainable development is in the focus of the project, its wider objective being to contribute to empowering of RU and KZ universities by enhancing synergy between HE and enterprises in the field of Transboundary Water Resources Management (TWRM), particularly via enhancing the role of "Industry-Academia Learning Partnerships" (IALPs) in addressing common environmental challenges. Raising awareness of water problems to provide for sustainable development of the bordering watersheds and countries, and creating potential for internationalization, are among the most important goals in the project. Designing a strategy for interaction with industry and building bridges between HE and the potential employers by developing courses targeting learning outcomes, professional competences and thus answering practical needs of industry, will improve employability of graduates and decrease unemployment. It will also facilitate links between various stakeholders and social groups in the societies and in this way improve social cohesion.

Award Criteria

Typology

Horizontal priorities

Fostering the assessment of transversal skills	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promoting the take-up of practical entrepreneurial experiences in education, training and youth work	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promoting the professional development of staff and youth workers in ICT methodologies	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting the production and adoption of Open Educational Resources in diverse European languages	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Facilitating the validation of non-formal and informal learning and its permeability with formal education pathways	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Linkages

School education	<input type="checkbox"/>
Higher education	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adult education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Vocational training	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth sector	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cross-sector	<input type="checkbox"/>

If cross sector is selected

School education	<input type="checkbox"/>
Higher education	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adult education	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vocational training	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth sector	<input type="checkbox"/>

CBHE Aims

Support the modernisation, accessibility and internationalisation of the higher education field in the eligible Partner Countries.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promote people to people contacts, intercultural awareness and understanding.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promote voluntary convergence with EU developments in higher education.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contribute to the cooperation between the EU and the eligible Partner Countries (and amongst the eligible Partner Countries).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Support eligible Partner Countries to address the challenges facing their higher education institutions and systems, including those of quality, relevance, equity of access, planning, delivery, management, governance.	<input type="checkbox"/>

CBHE Objectives

Improve the quality of higher education and enhance its relevance for the labour market and society.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improve the level of competences and skills in HEIs by developing new and innovative education programmes.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Enhance the management, governance and innovation capacities, as well as the internationalisation of HEIs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increase the capacities of national authorities to modernise their higher education systems, by supporting to the definition, implementation and monitoring of reform policies.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foster regional integration and cooperation across different regions of the world through joint initiatives, sharing of good practices and cooperation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Specific activities

Curriculum development	<input type="checkbox"/>
Modernisation of governance, management and functioning of HEIs	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strengthening of relations between HEIs and the wider economic and social environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Special mobility strand

The project contains a Special Mobility Strand	<input type="checkbox"/>
The project does not contains a Special Mobility Strand	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Involvement of people with fewer opportunities

YES/NO



Assessment Criteria

Quality of the project implementation

Description of the implemented activities

Despite a slow start the project is overall achieving the goals as set out in the original application. Most of activities took place according to the original planning, although a few necessary changes were made in relation to circumstances arising at the EU, RF and KZ partner institutions. Description of activities by work package

WP 1

1.1 The legal framework for efficient running of the project created: the PA signed; internal documentation regulating role distribution, responsibilities and structures on the institutional level signed by the rectors.

1.2 The kick-off meeting held at TyuSU in March 2016: work plan revised; a grant management workshop organized; the communication strategy discussed.

1.3 Inter-disciplinary Working Groups (IWG) set up on a vertical level (in each PI), and on the horizontal level (trans-institutional WG), each centred around a specific task; their members trained at seminars, workshops and discussion sessions. The Project Management Board (PMB) set up, the management structure further clarified following feedback from the monitoring events at TSU and ENU and is available on the project websites <http://treasure-water.eu/> and <https://www.utm.ru/riic/eng/eu-projects/erasmus/>

WP 2 The established IWGs and TWGs including staff from academic and non-academic partners were the main facilitators in designing methodology for building Industry-Academia Learning Partnerships (IALPs).

As a result:

2.1 An interdisciplinary knowledge pool for transboundary water resources management (TWRM) created

- a questionnaire jointly designed, needs analysis carried out; report available on the project websites

- a "puzzle catalogue" of the relevant TWRM courses created at PC universities

- TWRM-specific qualifications framework designed, incorporating experience of previous EU projects

(<http://www.qualfeem.org/qualfeem/ProjectOutcome.php>); <http://www.omgau.ru/international/programs/elfrus/#about>)

- information resources partially compiled, including 4 data bases on key actors in the water management sector in RF and KZ; legislation, policies and practices in TWRM; technologies of water management; ecological and socio-economic issues

All resources (in Russian, with English summaries) are available on the Moodle platform at ASU, to be later mirrored on the platforms of each PI.

2.2. 2.3 On the basis of the good practices identified in discussions with the EU partners, the strategy for establishing IALPs developed, built around a continuous dialogue with relevant stakeholders in the form of round table discussions, consultations and regular surveys. This enhanced awareness of comparative contexts for TWRM and increased mutual understanding. The results of WP 2 summed-up in a workshop at ASU (Feb.2017).

WP 3

3.1. Local retraining of staff undertaken by all PCIs. The first international workshop organised at AUTH, to take place in April 2017.

WP 4

4.1 The list of demand-driven courses for water industry confirmed (available online)

4.2. Methodology for the syllabi and course plans for 6 modules, including 24 ECTS-based courses partially developed/modernized; experience from other EU projects (e.g. TEMPUS 159325-2009, TEMPUS-2617-2005, TEMPUS 530690-2012) used in development of QF and syllabi).

4.3 With participation of employers a new curriculum for the graduate programme "Usage and Protection of Water Resources" designed and running at ASU.

WP 5

5.1 An e-platform for blended learning with a digital library of materials created as a working version at ASU for all participants.

5.2 A User manual for the e-learning platform available online.

5.3 Development of academic content for e-learning in progress.

WP 6

ECTS-based training courses for industry partners will be in operation in Year 3. The new/up-dated modules will be probated at Summer Schools and integrated into curricula at PC universities (2-4 credits each).

Quality assurance

Quality control and regular monitoring have been an integral part of the project implementation. The methodology for quality control and monitoring was discussed at the kick-off meeting at TSU in March 2016. The plan for QA was updated and made available on the project website (<http://treasure-water.eu/>). ALU leads on WP 7 assisted by TyuSU and UA. It has advised on the risk analysis and adjustment measures and helped to monitor effectiveness of activities performed. ALU and TyuSU monitor the project progress through regular reports and supervise official recognition of the developed courses and ensure correspondence of the curricula to the water sector needs.

Two monitoring events already took place: at ENU in April 2016 and at TSU in May 2016.

The PC Coordinator Dr. G. Telegina participated at the event at ENU, and Acting Coordinator Prof. E. Wagner attended the monitoring meeting at TSU. The feedback from the NEOs in Russia and Kazakhstan and EACEA were circulated and discussed by all participants, appropriate measures were taken following the recommendations, e.g. Country Coordinator for KZ was nominated; the strategy and plans for quality control and dissemination were re-considered and made available; the distribution of tasks and responsibilities within the consortium better specified (<http://treasure-water.eu/>).

The plan for quality control which is in line with the original planning is published on the project website. It includes the following measures:

- quality analysis of existing courses at all PCIs
- checking and analysing the existing QA procedures at each PCI
- consulting the EU partners on the QA mechanisms and standards at their institutions
- development of QA instruments in conjunction with the key stakeholders in the Water Sector and Water resources management structures
- comparative analysis of the QA mechanisms in RU, KZ and EU
- development of qualifications descriptors and quality indicators on the basis of the needs analysis
- establishing correlation of the methodology of course description based on ECTS and qualifications framework, with the ministries' standards and requirements at each PI
- producing an acceptable model for each PI of the QA standard evaluation for the courses to answer the needs of the employers
- accumulating approval of the designed curricula for the TWRM staff professional development by the local QA units and other relevant structures (e.g. the ministries of education where necessary)
- making sure that all PI departments in charge of continuing education are properly licensed
- monitoring the quality of the syllabi and the courses developed through regular contacts with industry and governmental partners via consultations, surveys and staff retraining courses delivery
- organising external peer reviews of the quality of the developed courses (by representatives of water industry and governmental bodies, EU partners, etc.)
- regular contacts with the National Erasmus+ offices
- continuously getting and analysing feedback from the course participants, recent graduates and senior students, to constantly improve and update the content and the lists of the courses offered
- presenting Quality control report in the Interim and Final reports on the project.

The staff QA departments/units are often directly involved in project activities. Together with the IWGs they are in charge of quality monitoring and official approval of the curricula. All course plans developed so far were discussed at faculties and got an approval of the deans and the QA units. The regulations for ECTS accumulation for the courses for industry will be validated by university councils. Information on QA measures is available on the project website.

Visibility

Visibility of the project has been ensured by WP 8, lead by ALU, TyuSU and ENU, according to the strategy drafted in the proposal.

The project website was launched at ALU in May 2016, providing general information on the project, its goals, the project management structure, the achievements and events: <http://treasure-water.eu/>. It is supervised by a dedicated person at ALU and is regularly updated, depending on the urgency of information to be communicated to the partners, but usually monthly.

Project webpages have also been created at each partner university, with varied degree of development at this stage. The webpage at the PC coordinating institution TyuSU <https://www.utmn.ru/riic/eng/eu-projects/erasmus/> is at the moment the most advanced in terms of information availability and structure and is to be used as a model by other partners. It has a member of staff in charge of regular updating and has links to all other webpages of consortium members.

Another important achievement of the project has been setting up of a working e-platform (WP5) on the website of Altai State University (Moodle used as the framework): (<http://public.edu.asu.ru/course/view.php?id=185>), which at the moment is used as a source for accumulating all data collected by the participants, as a working tool for management of project activities, collecting and storing information resources, including data bases and teaching materials. It is also used for structuring project outcomes and networking between participants of the consortium via a forum. It is open to wider public via a simple registration procedure and will be used for universities, water sector enterprises, decision makers and wider society in order to ensure a wide access to teaching/learning resources and to provide a forum for a public debate on issues of transnational water resources management. It will also facilitate communication between all relevant stakeholders and enhance their capacities. The structure and the titles of the units on the e-platform is in two languages, while some of the documents in the data bases, targeting Russian speakers (also in the KZ) are mostly in Russian, which is still the major working language in the two PCs. In the course of the project more materials are planned to be made available in two languages. When complete, this platform will be mirrored by all PC members of the consortium and used for blended learning with digital library of materials, to ensure a wide access to resources and to provide a forum for public debate on water issues. In Kazakhstan it will also be available in Kazakh. It will facilitate communication between all relevant stakeholders and enhance their capacities. A User Manual for the e-learning platform to be used by staff is available. The teaching and the IT staff for administration and maintenance of the e-capacity will be trained as part of WP 3, to prepare them for advanced e-learning and Blended Learning methodologies. The publicity obligations stated in the original proposal have been fulfilled according to the dissemination strategy, involving all means available: project webpages, e-platform, institutional networks, mass-media, information leaflets and brochures; project web-sites; seminars and conferences, as described in Section 2(1) of this report.

Equipment

The purpose of the equipment is to provide a technological environment for organising the course delivery in the blended and distance learning modes. It will mostly include office and teaching equipment, software for the e-platform and some teaching lab technology for RU and KZ partners. The equipment acquisition will be organized in a transparent way and on a competitive basis; where appropriate via tenders from different retailers in the PCs in order to bring the prices down.

The acquisition of equipment had been delayed due to the late dispatch of funds to the PC partners, but it is in progress now: lengthy legal procedures obligatory in RU and KZ (organising call for tenders, evaluating the results, etc.) have already been started by many PCI-s. It is planned to have equipment installed and running by the end of December 2017, which is in accordance with the work plan.

The project includes activities relating to curriculum development

Yes

HIGHER EDUCATION: Promoting internationalisation, recognition and mobility, supporting changes in line with Bologna principles and tools.

The project with its focus on improving professional LLL of staff from water industry and water management organisations is in full compliance with the Bologna Declaration. It is aimed at improving the quality and efficiency of education and training, by bringing education to the actual needs of industry and society at large, it is striving to develop a dynamic model for interaction between HE and industry, building on the key concept of "Industry-Academia" Learning Partnership (IALP), incorporating the Bologna guidelines, i.e. a competence-based, modular approach, ECTS, learning outcomes, qualifications framework, etc. On the basis of the conducted needs analysis qualifications descriptors have been developed together with the employers, and the syllabi for the demand-driven courses designed, centred around learning outcomes.

New/updated courses

Although the project is not a "Curriculum Development" type, it is aimed at the development of a curriculum of 6 modules, including several short courses each, for professional development of staff from water management industry and other relevant stakeholders. According to the workplan the finalisation of the content of the courses is to take place at the end of year 2 of the project, after the training of the PC staff at international workshops and seminars in the EU. Currently a "puzzle catalogue" of the relevant for TWRM courses at PC universities has been created; TWRM-specific qualifications framework designed, incorporating experience of previous EU projects (<http://www.qualfeem.org/qualfeem/ProjectOutcome.php>); <http://www.omgau.ru/international/programs/elfrus/#about>); information resources to be used in course development and consultancy partially compiled, including 4 data bases on key actors in the water management sector in RF and KZ; legislation, policies and practices in TWRM; technologies of water management; ecological and socio-economic issues; the list of demand-driven courses for water industry confirmed (available online); methodology for the syllabi and course plans for 6 modules, including 24 ECTS based courses were partially developed/modernized; experience from other EU projects (e.g. TEMPUS 159325-2009, TEMPUS-2617-2005, TEMPUS 530690-2012) used in development of QF and the syllabi).

No

Teaching / Training Activities

Yes

Mobility for Teaching, Training and/or project research activities

Staff mobility is a very important aspect of the project. It facilitates the transfer of ideas and information regarding the issues of TWRM and Academia-Industry Learning Partnership. The mobility (national and international) in the framework of WP 3 is linked to specific project objective 2: enhancing knowledge potential of the PC HEIs in TWRM. This will require training of course writers and staff from industry in innovative methodologies, tuned to the EU standards, while adjusted to local contexts. Staff mobility has taken place to and from the PC, at the same time mobility between the PC consortium members has been one of the crucial conditions for reaching the project objectives. Some local retraining of staff has already been undertaken by all PCIs during the workshops at TyuSU, ASU and EU, as well as in all other partners in the process of working groups formation and instruction. Training also includes workshops delivered by the EU and PC staff, experts from water industry; visits to the EU partners to attend workshops on transboundary water management issues and methodology of course design and delivery, blended learning instruments and approaches; enhancement of IT skills of participants to use the online platform; language training at home institutions. The procedures and mechanisms for the selection of candidates for international training from TGs 1, 2, 4 and 5 have been long established at ALU and TyuSU during previous EU (Tempus) projects and will be shared with other partners. The direct target groups include: academic and management staff in charge of development and introduction of Continuing Education and Professional Development courses in TWRM, teaching staff involved in delivery of professional-competence oriented modules, a few staff of the QA units, etc., representatives of the industrial partner-members of the consortium (Vodokanal). Among the key criteria for selection commitment to the project objectives, active participation in the activities of the IWG and language competence are to be applied. Overall at least 150 academic and business staff will be involved in training events. The first international workshop organised at AUTH will take place in April 2017, the programme is available on the PWS.

No

Section 2 IMPACT AND SUSTAINABILITY

Awareness raising, dissemination, sustainability and exploitation of the project results

Due to the project type aimed at strengthening links between a range of stakeholders, dissemination was performed on several levels and took various forms. On the institutional/local and regional levels via:

- meetings and "round tables" with stakeholders related to TWRM (full list on the PWS)
- presentations to wider public (available on the e-platform)
- contacts in the framework of the needs analysis (WP 2)
- partner universities' websites and internet materials:
<https://www.utmn.ru/en/international/projects-and-grants/>
<https://www.utmn.ru/search/?q=%D1%8D%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%B7%D0%BC%D1%83%D1%81>
<https://www.utmn.ru/rims/novosti/212786/>
<https://www.utmn.ru/presse/novosti/mezhdunarodnaya-deyatelnost/211877/>
<https://www.utmn.ru/presse/kalendar/184848/>
<https://www.utmn.ru/presse/kalendar/211998/>
<http://www.asu.ru/en/search/news/19424/>
<http://www.asu.ru/news/events/23289/>
<https://www.ugrasu.ru/international-activities/erasmus-.php> <https://www.vkgu.kz/ru/page/mezhdunarodnye-nauchnye-proekty.html>
<https://www.vkgu.kz/en/page/international-research-projects.html>
- the e-learning platform: <http://public.edu.asu.ru/course/view.php?id=185>
- video-conferences and Skype sessions
- local mass media, radio, TV
- through the Regional Environmental Training Unit set up at TyuSU as an outcome of a previous Tempus project
- seminars and workshops with participation of the EU partners on methodology of IALP design and on development of the LLL courses

The outcomes of training sessions were publicised in the local networks, e.g.:

- http://www.asu.ru/en/univer_about/international/news/events/23311/
- <https://www.utmn.ru/presse/novosti/mezhdunarodnaya-deyatelnost/213164/>

- information leaflets and posters (on PWS)
- open access to the on-line databases: <http://public.edu.asu.ru/course/view.php?id=185>;

On the national and international levels via:

- international and national conferences, information seminars (see PWS):
- publications of conference papers and articles in national and international journals (list on PWS):

Sustainability of the project results is to be ensured by several factors:

On the national and international levels:

- 1) the PC Governments' commitment to the Bologna reforms, LLL and the strategy for creating synergies between HE and industry
 - 2) the policy of the ministries of education in PCs to modernise HE according to new educational standards, in correspondence to the EU QFs
 - 3) the strengthened network of HEIs in RU and KZ via bilateral agreements on cooperation
 - 4) integration of the developed courses into the curricular at all PCIs
- On the institutional level:
- 1) full support of the rectors: all possible institutional measures to formalise the LLL courses have been taken by most of the partners
 - 2) the existence of close ties between all PCIs and local enterprises
 - 3) self-funded models of the course provision and increased resources due to the federally funded programmes at some partner universities (e.g. TyuSU, ENU, TSU)
 - 4) improved mechanisms for getting continuous feedback from employers about the competences needed by the local, national and international markets
 - 5) increased attraction of the environment-oriented LLL among graduates and general public

The main deliverables of the project so far are the following:

- an interdisciplinary knowledge pool for transboundary water resources management (TWRM) created
- strategy for establishing IALPs designed
- awareness of comparative contexts for TWRM enhanced
- local retraining of staff undertaken at the PCIs
- the list of demand-driven courses confirmed by needs analysis
- methodology for the syllabi and course plans for 6 modules, including 24 ECTS based courses worked out
- a new curriculum for a graduate programme "Usage and Protection of Water Resources" designed and running at ASU
- e-platform for blended learning with a digital library of materials set up
- user manual for the e-platform available online

SECTION 3: QUALITY OF COOPERATION

Project management

Management of the project involving 14 partner institutions has been a challenging task. It has run smoothly on the whole, although certain administrative problems were experienced at the start. The risks which were foreseen in the original proposal - bureaucracy at the institutional level, lack of international experience of new partners, instability of economic and political situations in the PCs – did have a certain hampering effect for the project start. The most significant barrier was a delay in signing the partnership agreement (PA) by some of the partners, due to their internal bureaucratic problems. As a consequence, the multilateral PA was fully signed with a delay, which in turn hampered the dispatch of funds to the PC partners who needed the originals of the fully signed PAs. Despite the fact and thanks to the commitment of the PC staff most of the activities were running according to the work plan, with necessary adjustments discussed and confirmed by the Project Management Board (PMB).

The management structure, duties and responsibilities were clarified following the feedback from early project monitoring at ENU and TSU, and made public on the project website (<http://treasure-water.eu/>). The role distribution of partner institutions (PI-s) by WPs was further discussed and adjusted at the coordination meetings at Tyusu in March 2016 and ALU in Oct. 2016 (available on the website).

ALU as the Grant holder and Tyusu as the PC coordinator lead on implementation of WP 1, WP 7, WP 8 and WP 9 supported by other PIs. They ensure overall smooth running of the project; collect and analyse regular reports from partners; make annual reviews of the project implementation; prepare the external audit and reports to the EACEA. The role of Tyusu, the initiator of the project and the coordinator for PCs, is particularly important for efficient project management, with their extensive experience of managing EU projects and special engagement and commitment to the project goals. Tyusu is in charge of coordination for RU and KZ partners, liaison with all consortium members and governmental structures, NEOs, keeping records of expenditures and draft reports.

Crucial management decisions were taken at meetings of the PMB, including Prof. R. Reski, Project Coordinator, Prof. E. Wagner, Acting Project Coordinator, Dr. G. Telegina, Coordinator PCs, Dr. R. Beisenova, Coordinator KZ, Dr. N. Zheryatyeva, Coordinator RU, contact persons for each PI. All decisions on academic matters were taken with active participation of the leaders of Trans-institutional Working Groups (TWG), which were set up around specific tasks. Institutional Working Groups were also set up at each HEI at the very start of the project.

Due to the clarified distribution of functions and responsibilities all partners have been fully integrated into the decision-making processes and despite a high level of workload at their institutions have been actively involved in all activities related to the project implementation. This allowed for effective monitoring of the completion of tasks, timely provision of comments and suggestions to make possible assessment and evaluation of inputs and feedbacks, introduce necessary adjustments, etc.

At all EU partner institutions a lot of liaising work has been going on between the coordinators and relevant faculties and departments, in order to prepare training workshops for the visiting PC staff and advise them on methodology development. Regular contacts were important for creating team spirit and high motivation for the WGs. Communication between the EU and PC partners was kept by phone, Skype, video-conferences and e-mail. More frequent than originally planned management meetings, usually adjusted to other project activities or co-funded from other sources, ensured effective coordination of activities and monitoring the progress.

Involvement of partners and stakeholders

The project was initiated by Tyusu, ALU and UoW, all three with a long joint experience of environmental projects. ALU and Tyusu equally lead in management of the project to ensure continuity and to capitalise on previous joint experience. The role of Tyusu, the initiator of the project, is particularly important for efficient project management, with their extensive experience of managing EU projects and commitment to the project goals. Tyusu is in charge of coordination for RU and KZ, liaises with all consortium members and governmental structures, NEOs, keeps records of expenditures and drafts reports. Together with ALU, it supervises development of methodology for IALP (WP 2), quality assurance (WP 7) and management (WP 9). Overall, the role of the PC staff in this project is remarkable, their initiative and their feeling of "ownership" of the project allowed in Year 1, despite the bureaucratic delays with the grant distribution, to keep the activities running according to the work plan. The PC members of the consortium are fully engaged in the project management. They participate in the selection of teaching staff for training; provide information on project activities according to the work plan; are proactive in designing methodology, organising courses for industry partners, developing cooperation between consortium members. The results of the needs analysis carried out in WP 2 were accounted for in all project activities and managerial decisions, the necessities of the PCIs and their staff being a reference point for the project strategy and tactics. Understanding the multiple constraints in the national and local contexts of the PC participants, the Administration of the project have been trying their best to help them to overcome them.

The EU universities cover a range of complementary fields of expertise in TWRM. Each partner leads on at least one WP, in collaboration with one or two PCIs. Depending on their strong area of expertise (distribution of leadership per WP available on the project website –PWS). All members of the project management board (PMB) participate equally in decision making.

All partners have a history of collaboration. There are agreements on cooperation between Tyusu and ALU, Tyusu and UoW, ASU and Tyusu, etc., ASU has links with EKSU and TSU; EKSU has good relations with ENU. This helps a lot in establishing mutual understanding and creating constructive relations when the more experienced partners help the less experienced ones and all learn from each other, especially in grant management.

Representatives of enterprises (TG 4) participate in the IWGs and are actively involved in designing the strategy for building "Industry-Academia Learning Partnerships". Some of the PhD and Master students were included into the IWGs to provide for wider dissemination and sustainability of the project results.

The indirect stakeholders include local governments and inter-governmental boards for water management, influential companies in environmental field, public organizations in TWRM, e.g., Government Department of Subsoil Management and Ecology of Tyumen Region, Department for Environmental Control of the East Kazakhstan Area, Association of Water Economy of Kazakhstan, Directorate for Management of the Lower-Ob river watershed, etc. (full list available on the e-platform at ASU). These stakeholders have been involved via interviews, presentations and "round tables" including academics, representatives of industry, regional authorities and the wider public (list of events available on the PWS). To enhance the impact of the project a few policy making departments had been associated into the consortium and are invited as external experts to evaluate the quality of the project outcomes. This has kept them well informed on project development, hence increasing the potential impact on education and environmental policy change at national, regional and international levels.

Management of the grant

According to the original plan specially dedicated staff were appointed at each partner institution (PI) for managing financial issues of the project. They attended a grant management workshop at TyuSU in March 2016, where the structure of the budget and grant distribution were clarified, and the rules for grant management and financial reporting were explained. This workshop was followed by regular communication via email, phone and Skype, as well as through personal consultations during coordination meetings.

The Budget is in full compliance with Erasmus+ CBHE regulations. Its distribution is defined by the roles and inputs of partners and the amounts are accordingly stated in the PAs. According to the responsibility and work load distribution the two leading universities (ALU and TyuSU) have appropriate funding for management and administration, as both play crucial roles in management of the grant. The Applicant (ALU) is responsible for the overall financial management, while TyuSU supervises regular accounting and archiving of project documentation, collection and analysis of financial data for all PC institutions. Project administrators at ALU and TyuSU play a particularly important role: they collect quarterly reports and, together with the Acting Coordinator, Coordinator for the PC-s and the country managers, keep control over all project expenditures. The PI contact persons deliver regular financial reports to the PC and EU coordinators. The Coordinator, in his turn, circulates the financial reports to the partners.

Each PC university has opened a project sub-account to handle their funds.

All financial transactions are managed by the ALU Finance Department.

To minimise risks in the volatile economic situations in the PC, in line with the signed PAs, the grant is released by the Grantholder according to the following scheme: 30% of the respective beneficiary's estimated Erasmus+ grant contribution after the signing of the PA; 30% on providing eligible and full proof of expenditure of at least 70% of the 1st installment, and 30% on proof of project expenditure of at least 70% of the 1st and 2nd installments, with the last reimbursement of costs after the approval of the Final Report.

Grant management both in the EU and the PC PIs has faced several challenges due to the increased bureaucracy in all national systems:

- because of a considerable delay in funds release to the PIs the exchange rate of local currencies to Euro in RU and KZ had changed, which influenced the total grant available (the transferred amount of Euros to the PIs had a lower rate than the fixed project rate)

- the previously used practice to pay out the project subsistence to international mobility participants in the EU, to minimise risks and to avoid losses of the grant on volatile and unpredictable rates of exchange, has not worked so far, due to local constraints at the EU institutions.

Nevertheless, to fulfill the plan for activities, the solution was to recommend to the partners to economise by using local rates where possible (if they are lower than Erasmus+ flat rates), save on travel costs by buying tickets in advance, and co-finance some of the activities. The principle of cost effectiveness is applied in all activities and for all cost types of the project. The previous EU projects' experience will be used to economize and reduce staff costs: in most of the methodology and course development the key role is played by the PC staff, to enhance their "ownership" of the project and to reduce staff costs.

The equipment acquisition, which was delayed due to late release of the funds will be organized in a transparent way and on a competitive basis, where appropriate via tenders from different retailers in the PCs in order to bring the prices down. Web technologies will be applied where possible, to substitute or complement paper-based publishing.

Relevance

Relevance to the objectives

The needs analysis (WP 2) (Link) conducted in Year 1 has demonstrated that the relevance of the project's objectives, as set up in the original proposal, has in fact increased, as the overall situation in the Ob river watershed has not improved since the time of the application. It requires energetic action and cooperation between all interested stakeholders in the transboundary management of common water resources. The project with its focus on improving professional LLL of staff from water industry and water management organisations has acquired particular importance. The needs analysis involved various aspects, including the needs of the academic institutions in terms of staff training and curricular modernisation, as well as the demands of the water industry and governmental bodies. As a result, the qualifications descriptors have been developed together with the employers, and the syllabi for the demand-driven courses designed.

At the first stage of the project the consortium has been experiencing administrative difficulties (foreseen as potential risks in the proposal), in particular, due to hierarchical complications and increasing bureaucratic barriers and changing legal constraints in the systems of both the EU and PC PIs. For example, some of the EU partners took a long time in agreeing to sign the partnership agreement, which had an effect on the funds release and, accordingly, to the necessity of making adjustments to the work plan and grant management. Fortunately, very few international mobilities were planned at the first stage and most of the activities planned for Year 1 were linked to the needs analysis and methodology development, where the PC institutions were heavily involved. The PC institutions had to advance payments for staff costs, which had required a lot of negotiation with their administrative bodies. In some PIs the staff costs had to be reimbursed after the completion of the tasks, i.e. on the receipt of funds. This fact, though, did not have a very negative effect on the motivation of staff, who have demonstrated their engagement by advancing their time and efforts.

Despite certain differences in the quality assurance requirements and administrative systems at the EU, RU and KZ universities, overall the consortium has not experienced any particular cultural differences, as most of the partners have had some experience of working in multicultural international team and have always tried to find positive solutions to challenges arising. The relevance of the project to the national contexts in all countries involved is defined by its ambition to address one of their common priorities - "University-enterprise cooperation, entrepreneurship and employability of graduates" which is on the lists of the regional priorities for both RU and KZ countries. Strengthening links with local economies and labour markets, implementation of competence-based, multidisciplinary and innovative approaches are major priorities for the national higher educational institutions (HEIs) in all consortium countries. Developing HE sector within society at large (priority d), especially promotion of life long learning based on distance learning and blended learning, is a national priority for RU and, as the needs analysis has proved, is also of great importance for KZ and the EU partners. The environmental protection theme is prioritized by all the national governments and is a regional priority for KZ.

EU Education, Cooperation & Development policies

The project is in full compliance with the EU Higher Education objectives as stated in the Strategic framework – Education & Training 2020 and in the Bologna Declaration. It is aimed at improving the quality and efficiency of education and training, by bringing education to the actual needs of industry and society at large, it is striving to develop a dynamic model for interaction between HE and industry, building on the key concept of "Industry-Academia Learning Partnership" (IALP), incorporating the Bologna guidelines, i.e. a competence-based, modular approach, ECTS, qualifications framework, etc.

The project is promoting equity, social cohesion, and active citizenship by involving wide categories of social stakeholders and creating awareness of the issues of transboundary water management and wider environmental challenges via the creation of open information resources, project dissemination activities and the delivery of courses. It is also contributing to making lifelong learning and mobility a reality, developing new demand-driven courses for continuing professional development, to be delivered in the blended-learning mode. These courses take into account the needs of a variety of actors and covering wider issues of TWRM (diversity of water ecosystems; water pollution and misuse; multi-functional value of water resources; water monitoring; water governance and management) are designed in view of the professional qualifications framework for the regions and countries involved and incorporate the outcomes and experiences of other relevant EU projects. The sustainability of the project is to be ensured, among other factors, by the self-funded models of training and course delivery, which will enhance the spirit of creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship among the academics involved.

The project is also in full compliance with the EU Cooperation & Development policies, aimed at increasing capacity for cooperation between relevant stakeholders in transboundary water resources management internationally, fostering transfer of knowledge and innovations between higher education and business, helping to create partnerships and profitable opportunities and overall increasing the role of universities in the economies. The visibility and attractiveness of the European Higher Education Area have been disseminated at multiple events of the project: workshops, conference participation and round table discussions with various stakeholders.

Statistics and Indicators

Statistics and Indicators

Links to EU HEI Policies

- Teacher training
- Vocational Education and Training
- 1st Cycle (e.g. Bachelor)
- 2nd Cycle (e.g. Master)
- 3rd Cycle (e.g. Doctoral)

Training and Mobilities

Event	Purpose	Type of participants	Gender	-	Country of Origin	Country of destination	Duration (in weeks)	%compared to objectives
-------	---------	----------------------	--------	---	-------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------------

Links to EU HEI Policies

Main Target

- Diploma supplement
- Adoption of a system based on three main cycles, undergraduate (Bachelor), postgraduate (Master) and Doctorate
- Introduction of double/multiple or joint degrees
- Establishment of an ECTS system
- Promotion of quality assurance procedures at institutional or national level
- Qualification frameworks
- Lifelong learning policies and approaches
- Modular curriculum structure
- New learning and teaching methods or approaches
- Online education and training material (e-learning)
-

University-enterprise cooperation, entrepreneurship and employability of graduates

- The project contributes to youth employment and the integration of young people in the labour market
- Links with other EU education programmes

Equipment

- books and pedagogic material
- audio-visual equipment
- Computers and software
- lab material
- Other

Consortium Meetings

Estimated dates of consortium meetings until the end of the projects

Venue country	Venue city	Date of Meeting
Deutschland	Freiburg	12/11/2017
United Kingdom	Wolverhampton	14/03/2018
Greece	Athens	10/05/2018

Attachments

Type of File	Name of the File
Budget Table	Budget_Table.xlsx
Declaration of Honour	Declaration_of_Honour.pdf
Table of achieved results	Achieved_Results.pdf
Dissemination/Exploitation Plan	Dissemination_Exploitation_Plan.pdf
Quality Assurance Plan	Quality_Assurance_Plan.pdf
Request for Payment	Request_for_Payment.pdf
Report Special Mobility Strand	AknowledgmentOfReceipt.txt